

The PSC Pulse

VOGTLE UNIT 3 REACHES 100% ENERGY OUTPUT



In a major milestone for what has been called the largest construction project in North America, Unit 3 of the Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant expansion hit 100-percent energy output during testing.

The 100-percent milestone means the unit produced approximately 1,100 MW of electricity. Georgia Power estimates that is enough to power 500,000 homes and businesses.

Since first reaching full power, a battery of tests must be completed before the unit can start sending electricity to the grid. When the unit does begin to dispatch power, it will produce efficient, base-load energy with zero carbon emissions for an estimated 80 years.

As Unit 3 approaches completion, Unit 4 has begun receiving nuclear fuel. The uranium fuel arrived by truck in special shipping containers. Those containers are inspected and stored until the fuel is loaded into the reactor, which is expected by the end of the year.

INFLUENTIAL LEADERS



TRICIA PRIDEMORE
CHAIR
Public Service Commission
Marietta

Pridemore was unanimously elected chair of the Public Service Commission in 2021 and was recently re-elected by the members of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners to serve on the board of directors of the National Utility Commissioners Association.

Public Service Commission Chairman **Tricia Pridemore** was listed by Georgia Trend Magazine as one of the “100 Most Influential Georgians.” Also receiving accolades is PSC Commissioner **Lauren “Bubba” McDonald Jr.**, who was named by Atlanta Magazine as one of the city’s 500 “Most Powerful Leaders.”

Georgia Trend noted that Pridemore is set to serve as President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners in 2024. Atlanta Magazine pointed to McDonald’s 20 years of service in the General Assembly, his years of work on the Public Service Commission and his achievements in the private business sector.



GOVERNOR SIGNS LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Commissioners **Tricia Pridemore, Jason Shaw, Tim Echols and Fitz Johnson** were among the attendees for the Governor’s signing of SB146.

PSC Commissioners supported significant legislation during the 2023 Session of the General Assembly including a new law that will increase penalties for those who would attack critical infrastructure and another that will help Georgia prepare for the expansion of electric vehicle usage.

Senate Bill 146 helps neighborhood gas stations expand into the EV charging business. The bill changes the calculation for electric vehicle charging from the current method, where consumers pay by the minute, to a new method, calculated by the kilowatt hour. The new law also creates safeguards to ensure fair competition between utility companies that offer vehicle charging and small businesses trying to get into the EV game. The language for the new law came directly from a study committee where PSC Chairman **Tricia Pridemore** served as a member.

Also passing during the legislative session, House Bill 227 increases penalties for attacks on state infrastructure, including power substations. Such attacks have been on the rise nationally with noted incidents in



Threats and attacks on U.S. infrastructure, including power substations, have been on the rise, including the pictured sniper attack in California.

North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah, Oregon, California and Washington state.

While the bill was under consideration, all five PSC commissioners signed a letter of support, noting that the PSC is the Constitutional body charged with oversight of investment in critical infrastructure for the largest utilities in Georgia.

LEARNING THE INTRICACIES OF LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS



From left to right, Commissioner **Jason Shaw**, Utilities Engineer **Nijah James**, Commissioner **Fitz Johnson**, Utilities Engineer **Janey Chauvet**, Chairman **Tricia Pridemore**, Utilities Analyst **Sam Johnson**, Commissioner **Tim Echols**, Commissioner **Lauren “Bubba” McDonald** and Executive Assistant **Amy Hicks**.

In a joint partnership of the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Association of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners, all five PSC Commissioners and select staff from the Natural Gas Division headed to Southeast Georgia for a facility overview of the Elba Island Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal.

The trip included a presentation about Atlanta Gas Light’s Integrated Capacity Development Plan and how liquefied Natural Gas assists in system reliability.

Also on the trip, the delegation received a tour of the Port Fuel Center at Port Wentworth with a discussion about compressed natural gas in trucking.

GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS APRIL 2023 ‘SAFE DIGGING MONTH’

Gov. Brian Kemp signed a proclamation declaring April 2023 as “Safe Digging Month.”

The Public Service Commission inspects natural gas pipelines and is tasked with holding businesses and individuals accountable if they fail to call 811 and accidentally strike underground utilities.

With the rapid and much needed expansion of broadband internet service in rural parts of Georgia, the state is seeing an uptick in damaged utilities. Some rural areas do not have the personnel to mark utilities fast enough for contractors and subcontractors who are excavating areas to install fiberoptic cable.

For more information about what is and isn’t required before digging, log on to www.Georgia811.com.



Gov. Brian Kemp holds his proclamation. Included in the picture are PSC Commissioners **Lauren “Bubba” McDonald**, **Tricia Pridemore** and **Fitz Johnson**. Also in the photo are Executive Director **Reece McAlister** and Facilities Protection Case Manager **Will Culbreath**.

TOURING FACILITIES

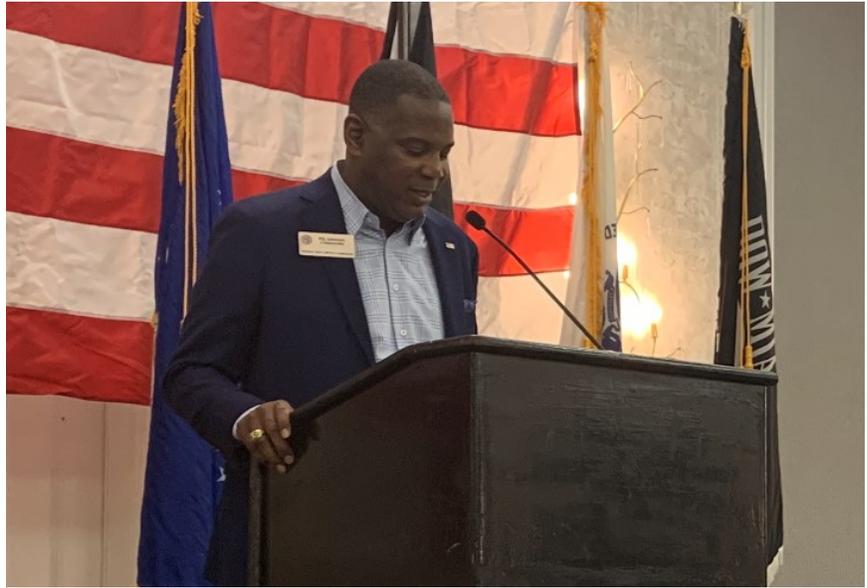


Commissioner **Jason Shaw** gets an in-depth tour of the Cherokee Liquefied Natural Gas Plant. An expansion project includes the installation of a second tank to allow Atlanta Gas Light to store gas when it's most affordable and have access to that supply later.



Tom Newsome, director of utilities/finance, and EERE Director **Jamie Barber** were among many staffers to tour the Plant Vogtle construction site in February, before Unit 3 powered to 100-percent.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSON JOINS COBB COUNTY REPUBLICAN WOMEN FOR MEMORIAL DAY



PSC Commissioner **Fitz Johnson**, a 21-year veteran of the U.S. Army, was invited by the Cobb County Republican Women to speak on Memorial day.

In an emotional POW/MIA ceremony, Commissioner Johnson asked people to remember those who never came home from their deployment.

COMMISSIONER ECHOLS IN DARIEN FOR EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Commissioner **Tim Echols** asked leaders in energy, sustainability and innovation to join him in the coastal city of Darien for an Earth Day event that included an all-day learning seminar.

The personalities who converged on Darien represented the sustainability and clean energy brain trust of the state, Echols said. Speakers included Ira Pearl from Cox Conserves, Wilson Mallard of Georgia Power and Ryan Sanders of Beltline Energy. Topics included solar, recycling, renewable natural gas, coastal management and carbon-free nuclear energy.



Echols and **Elba Pareja-Gallagher**, sustainability director at UPS



Other speakers represented the DNR, University of Georgia, Clark Atlanta, UPS, Escalent, Georgia Power, Southern Gas and the local Chamber and Development Authority.

FROM HUMAN RESOURCES: STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS



If you have student loans, you will want to read this.

We've all been hearing the ups/downs and the pros/cons of the Biden Loan Forgiveness plan. To date we still don't know the outcome and student loan payments are set to resume in September.

As a full-time state employee, you are eligible to apply for the Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program – a to-

tally separate federal program specifically designed for those that work in government organizations or any employer that is tax-exempt under Section 501c (3). The PSC is on the eligibility list.

Under the PSLF Program, borrowers employed in public service who make 120 monthly payments on their loans – this includes income-contingent payments – can have the balance of their loans forgiven.

A couple of things to keep in mind:

- Your loans need to be consolidated into one loan.
- Only consolidated payments that you make on the new Direct Consolidation Loan can be counted toward the 120 payments required for PSLF.
- But, **if loans are consolidated by year end**, you may be entitled to a one time adjustment – meaning previous payments might count toward your 120 payment goal.

An excellent website to learn more: <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service>

COMMISSIONER AND WIFE HONOR MEMORIAL DAY AT THE CAPITOL



Commissioner **Lauren "Bubba" McDonald** and his wife, Shelley, were among those invited by Gov. Brian Kemp to attend a Memorial Day ceremony at the Georgia State Capitol.

McDonald, along with his public service in various government roles, served six years in the Georgia Air National Guard.

PARTNERS ON THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR POWER



David Wright, Commissioner of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Georgia Public Service Commission Chairman **Tricia Pridemore** shared a stage at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Winter Policy Summit in Washington, D.C., and discussed the future of nuclear energy in the United States.

The two also discussed the new partnership on advanced nuclear between NARUC and the National Association of State Energy Officials.

The partnership, called the Advanced Nuclear State Collaborative, is an effort to bring together utility regulators and energy officials from across the nation to enhance collective understanding of the regulatory and policy issues facing states contemplating the development of new nuclear generation.

NEW FACES AT THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Ginny Davis started at the Public Service Commission in February as an Attorney in the legal unit.

She comes to us from the Fulton County District Attorney's office. Prior to her work as a prosecutor, Ginny worked with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Her tenure with the state of Georgia began in 2008.



Bobby Iseley joined the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) unit in May as a Utilities Engineer.

Bobby holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and a Master of Science degree in Natural Resources and Energy Policy. He recently moved to Atlanta from Colorado.



In March, **Ray-Kelle Preston** joined the legal unit as an Attorney.

She graduated law school from Georgia

State College of Law and previously worked at Verizon.

Ray-Kelle loves food, travel and cheering on the Georgia Bulldogs.

Commissioner Fitz Johnson has hired a new executive assistant, **Bree Lawrence**.

Originally from Jamaica, Bree moved to Atlanta in 2021 after living in Tampa, Florida where she attended the University of South Florida.



EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY AT THE PSC

Gov. Brian Kemp designated May 8-12, 2023 as Employee Appreciation Week in Georgia. To mark the commemoration, the Public Service Commission held an Employee Appreciation luncheon on May 11.

Executive Secretary **Sallie Tanner** and Executive Assistant **Quawanda Boyer** (with help from Human Resources Director **Lynn Page**) made planning and executing the luncheon look easy. Everybody knows, however, that successful events like these do not come off without hard work and proper planning.



*Business Support Analyst **Lisa Jensen**, Operations Support Analyst **William Upshaw** and others prepare their plates.*

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY!**

MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



5 YEARS

Nicholas Hall

Tricia Pridemore

Shaundra Worthy



The PSC wishes several members of its extended family good wishes as they start college careers.

Executive Director **Reece McAlister's** son Troy, at left, graduated from New Creation Christian Academy and will attend Truett-McConnell University in the fall.

Public Information Officer **Tom Krause's** daughter Alden, at right, graduated from North Atlanta High School and will head to Florida State University.



Commissioner **Lauren "Bubba" McDonald's** grandson Ridley McDonald, bottom left, graduated from the McCallie School and is off to The Citadel.



And finally, Facilities Protection Unit Supervisor **Jeff Baggett's** grandson, Jonah Miller — at only 9 weeks old! — began attending Jacksonville State University. Well, Jeff's son-in-law works there and Jonah is staying in the daycare, but still...



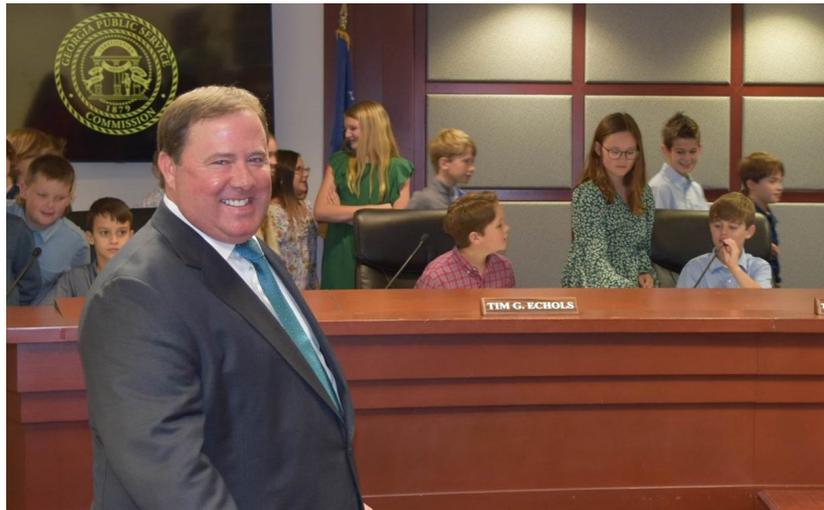
15 YEARS

Will Culbreath

Nancy Gibson

David Lewis

Alicia McBride



Commissioner **Jason Shaw's** son, Slaton, visited the PSC with his Valwood School 4th Grade class. Slaton, seen on the right speaking into the microphone, took control of the Commission almost immediately.

Before he could be removed from the chairman's seat, Slaton decommissioned three power plants, approved the construction of a new hydroelectric dam and attempted to ban homework for all children in the Georgia Power service area.

30 YEARS

Dorothy Buckner

Nancy Tyer

COMMISSION CALENDAR

July 2023

4 - 4th of July Holiday
6 - Administrative Session
13 - Committee Meetings
20 - Administrative Session
27 - Committee Meetings
27 - Docket # 29849, VCM 28 Hearing

August 2023

1 - Administrative Session
10 - Committee Meetings
10 - Docket #29849 VCM 28 Rebuttal Hearing
15 - Administrative Session
31 - Committee Meetings

September 2023

4 - Labor Day Holiday
5 - Administrative Session
14 - Committee Meetings
19 - Administrative Session
28 - Committee Meetings

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS



Independence Day
Tuesday, July 4



Labor Day
Monday, Sept. 4



Columbus Day
Monday, Oct. 9

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COMMISSIONERS

Tricia Pridemore, Chairman
Tim G. Echols, Vice Chair
Fitz Johnson
Lauren "Bubba" McDonald
Jason Shaw

The Public Information Office publishes The PSC Pulse for the Georgia Public Service Commission. Information for The PSC Pulse should be sent to the attention of **Tom Krause, Public Information Officer** or **Lynn Page, Newsletter Editor**.

Executive Director: Reece McAlister
Utilities Director: Tom Bond
Executive Secretary: Sallie Tanner